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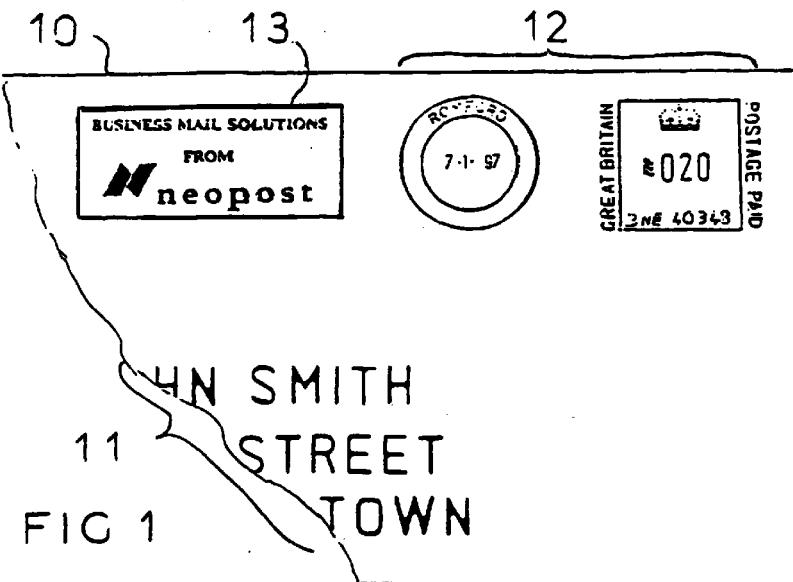
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(54) Method and apparatus for printing and prevention of copying of postage indicia

(57) Postage indicia (12) are printed on mail items (10) using an ink having a characteristic such that the ink is rendered invisible when subjected to light or light and heat of sufficient intensity. When an attempt is made to copy the imprint of a postage indicia (12) on a mail item for which proper accounting has been effected the imprint is subjected to a burst of light or light and

heat and the ink becomes invisible and prevents copying of the imprint. The imprint of the postage indicium may overly and obscure a void mark (14) which becomes visible and is copied in the event of attempting to copy the original authentic postage indicium (12).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	26 July 1999	Meulemans, J-P	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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